

Message Text

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15

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SCCT-01 OPR-02 A-01

IO-10 SY-05 OC-05 CCO-00 SCA-01 SCS-03 USSS-00 OMB-01

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O R 020900Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3494

INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0504

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI AO

SUBJECT: LUANDA VIOLENCE DIES DOWN

REF: LUANDA 0502

1. SUMMARY. THE LEVEL OF VIOLENCE IN LUANDA FELL OFF DURING MAY 1 AND BY THE MORNING OF MAY 2 THE CITY WAS RELATIVELY QUIET ALTHOUGH FIGHTING CONTINUED IN SOME AREAS. THE DOWNTOWN AREA WAS NOT AFFECTED BY THE VIOLENCE AND BUSINESSES ARE OPERATING NORMALLY AFTER THE LABOR DAY HOLIDAY. THE HIGH COMMISSIONER MET ON MAY 1 WITH THE PRESIDENTS OF THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, ALL OF WHOM ISSUED APPEALS FOR A CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES. HOODLUMS LOOTED
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THE HOMES OF WHITES NEAR THE GHETTOS AND MANY REFUGEES HAVE SOUGHT

SAFETY IN HOTELS, SCHOOLS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. I DROVE AROUND THE CITY YESTERDAY AND COULD FIND NO EVIDENCE OF THE LARGE TROOP MOVEMENTS THAT HAD BEEN REPORTED TO US. FNLA AND MPLA HAD ROADBLOCKS UP AT MANY POINTS AROUND THE CITY. THE ONLY FIGHTING UNDERWAY DURING MY TOUR WAS IN THE GHETTOS; THE STREETS WERE CLEAR. A MORTAR ROUND LANDED NEAR THE FNLA MILITARY HEADQUARTERS AS WE WERE PASSING THROUGH. LARGE NUMBERS OF WHITES WHO LIVE IN OR AROUND THE GHETTOS WERE DRIVEN FROM THEIR HOMES YESTERDAY AND THE PREVIOUS NIGHT BY BANDS OF BLACKS, WHO LOOTED AFTER DRIVING OFF THE OCCUPANTS. A CROWD OF FRIGHTENED AND ANGRY WHITES, SOME IN UNDERCLOTHES, DEMONSTRATED ON MAY 1 IN FRONT OF THE PALACE TO DEMAND PROTECTION. HOTELS WERE FILLED AND SCHOOLS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS OPENED THEIR DOORS TO RECEIVE REFUGEES.

3. THE HIGH COMMISSIONER MET AT 1300 HOURS ON MAY 1 WITH THE LIBERATION MOVEMENT LEADERS - AGOSTINHO NETO, JONAS SAVIMBI AND JOHNNY EDUARDO REPRESENTING HOLDEN ROBERTO. AGREEMENT WAS REACHED TO RECONSTITUTE THE INTEGRATED FORCES AND SEND THEM TO TROUBLE SPOTS. AFTER THE MEETING THE PARTICIPANTS READ PREPARED STATEMENTS IN WHICH THEY CALLED FOR A CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES. JOHNNY EDUARDO READ A MESSAGE FROM HOLDEN ROBERTO. BOTH ROBERTO AND NETO RECOGNIZED IN THEIR STATEMENTS THAT ONE CAUSE OF THE FIGHTING WAS ANIMOSITY BETWEEN MPLA AND FNLA, BUT BOTH BLAMED OUTSIDE ELEMENTS. ROBERTO CASTIGATED WHITES FOR EXACERBATING THE SITUATION. HE ORDERED ALL FNLA TROOPS TO REMAIN IN THEIR QUARTERS. NETO DIRECTED HIS FORCES TO STAND DOWN FROM ALL OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS. SAVIMBI EMPHASIZED THAT UNITA WAS NOT INVOLVED IN THE FIGHTING AND APPEALED TO ALL FOR REASON AND CALM. THE STATEMENTS WERE BROADCAST EVERY FEW MINUTES THROUGHOUT THE AFTERNOON AND BY NIGHTFALL THE CITY BEGAN TO CALM DOWN, ALTHOUGH FIRING CONTINUED IN SOME AREAS AND OCCASIONAL MORTAR BURSTS COULD BE HEARD.

4. FOLLOWING UP ON THE ASSESSMENT IN LUANDA 0500, IT DOES APPEAR THAT THE HOSTILITIES BEGAN SPONTANEOUSLY AND WERE PERPETUATED BY THE FEARS OF EACH SIDE THAT THE OTHER HAD SOME OVERALL PLAN IN MIND. THE NEWS OF THE YUGOSLAV FREIGHTER WITH ARMS FOR MPLA FURTHER HEIGHTENED FEARS THAT AN ALLOUT OFFENSIVE WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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UNDERWAY BY MPLA. MPLA IRREGULARS NOT UNDER THE EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF ANY AUTHORITY JOINED IN, BANDS OF LOOTERS ADDED TO THE CONFUSION AND RABID WHITE PARTISANS OF BOTH FNLA AND MPLA ENTERED THE ACTION TO VENT THEIR FRUSTRATIONS AND HATREDS.

5. THE NUMBER OF DEAD AND WOUNDED IS NOT YET KNOWN, BUT WE HAVE ONE REPORT FROM A POLICE SOURCE THAT 700 PEOPLE, MOSTLY BLACK CIVILIANS HAVE DIED. THE AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN CALLING FOR THREE

DAYS FOR THE SERVICES OF ALL DOCTORS, NURSES, MEDICAL STUDENTS
AND ANYONE WHO MAY WISH TO VOLUNTEER.

6. I AM REASSESSING THE EVACUATION SITUATION AND MAY DECIDE TO
ORDER OUT THE DEPENDENTS OF U.S. GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES. THE ATTITUDE
TOWARD WHITES I MENTIONED IN LUANDA'S PARA 10 OF 0352 IS NOW A
DISTINCT MENACE AND IN THE NEXT ROUND OF VIOLENCE THAT IS SURE TO
COME WHITE FOREIGN HOMES MAY BE THE TARGET.
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Message Attributes

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